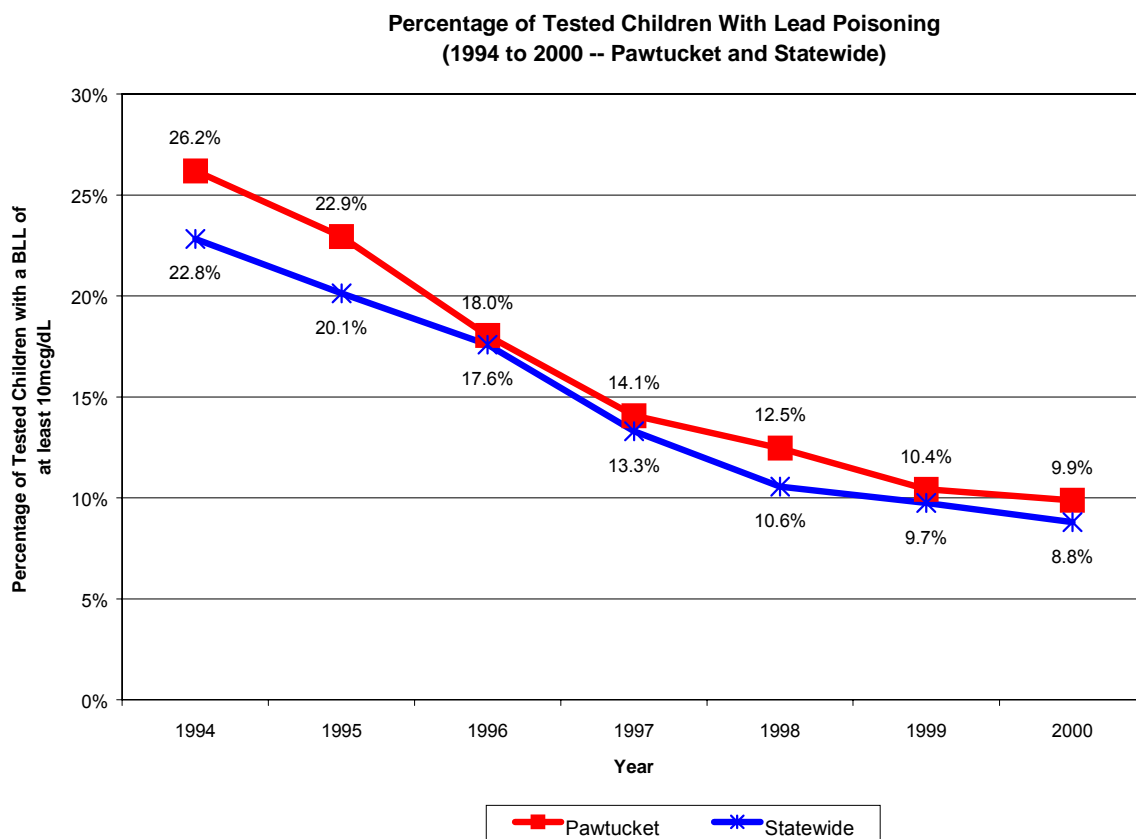


Pawtucket Children With Lead Poisoning

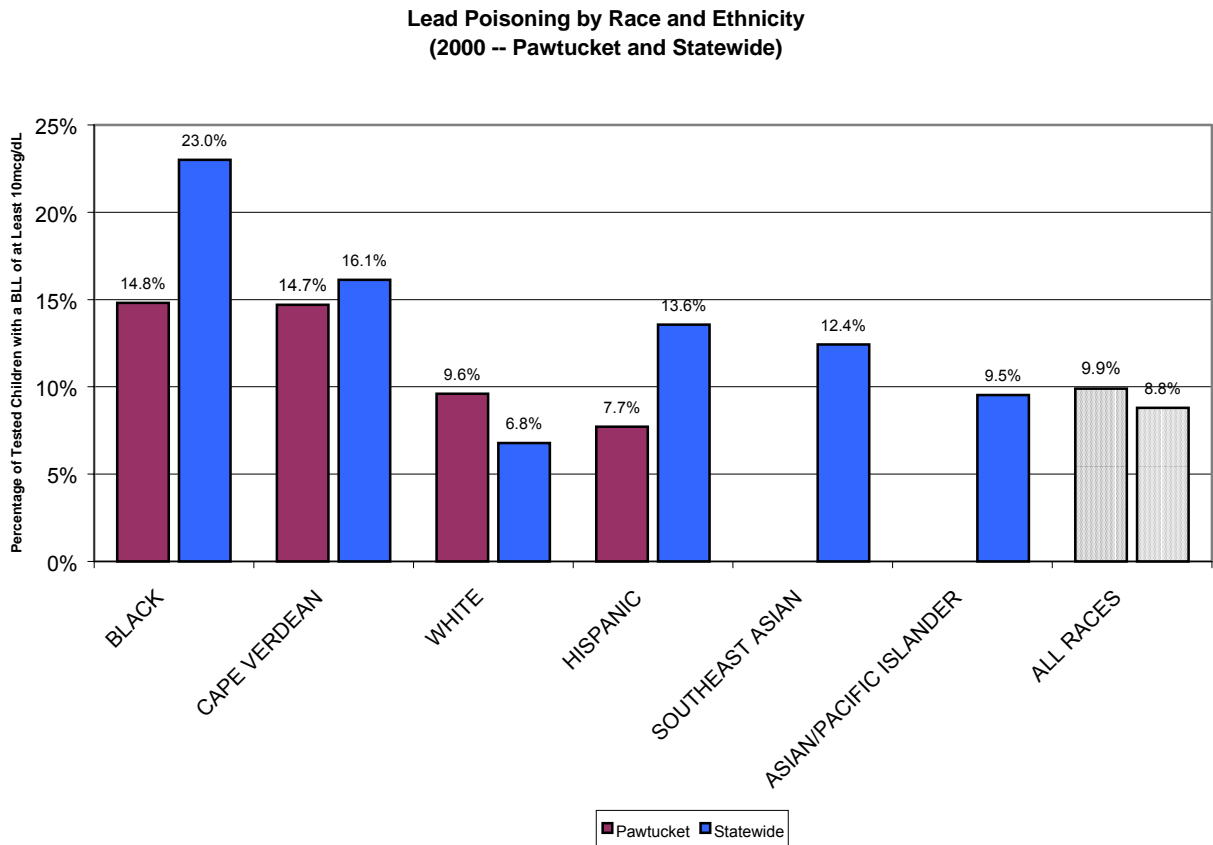
- In 2000, nearly 10% of children (over 260 children) tested in Pawtucket had a harmful level of lead in their blood ($\geq 10 \mu\text{g/dL}$).
- This is slightly above the statewide average of less than 9% of children tested having a harmful Blood Lead Level (BLL).
- Pawtucket has always had amongst the lowest prevalence rates for lead poisoning of Rhode Island's largest cities, and has mirrored the downward trend observed statewide in the last decade.
- Despite these important gains and near match to the statewide average, it's important to recognize the additional work needed to mirror suburban or national poisoning rates.



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Lead Poisoning Rates In Pawtucket's Children By Race And Ethnicity

- Not all populations of children face the same burden of lead poisoning.
- Nearly 15% of black and Cape Verdean children in Pawtucket were lead poisoned in 2000 as opposed to 10% of white children and less than 8% of Hispanic children.
- While all races have had dramatic declines in lead poisoning rates, the disparity between black and white children has remained largely unchanged with over 30% of black and 25% of white children having elevated levels in 1994.
- Hispanic children have seen the most notable drops, having declined to less than 7% poisoned in 2000 from 29% poisoned in 1994.
- The magnitude of disparities by race in Pawtucket is clearly much less than that observed statewide.



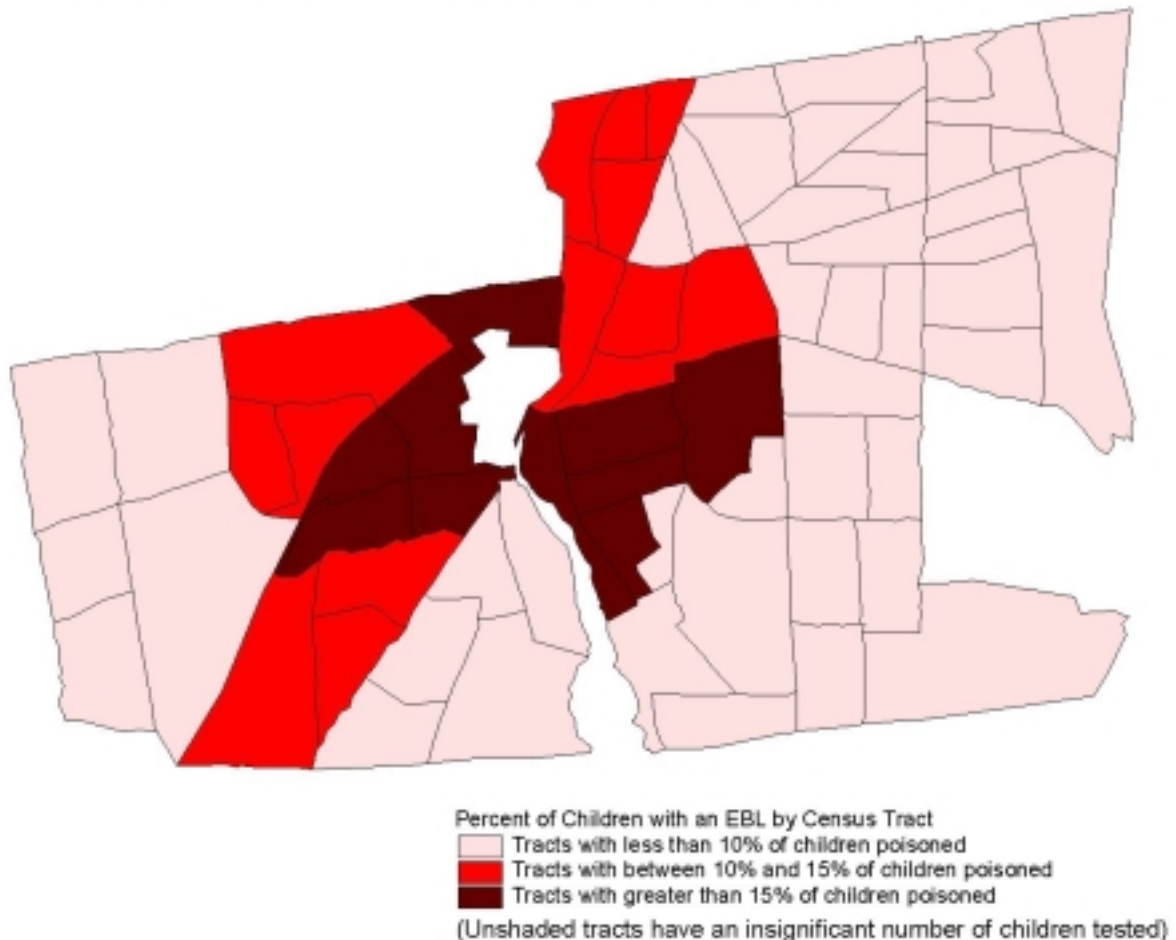
Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Note: Missing bars indicate that the total number of children tested in the group was too small to yield significant results.

Lead Poisoning Rates In Pawtucket's Children By Geography

- Significant disparities in poisoning rates also exist by geographic location within the city.
- The map illustrates the percentage of tested children with lead poisoning by census tract for 2000.
- While all tracts have had substantial declines from 1995, the disparities between the tracts have largely remained.

Comparison by Pawtucket Census Tract of Lead Poisoned Children (2000)

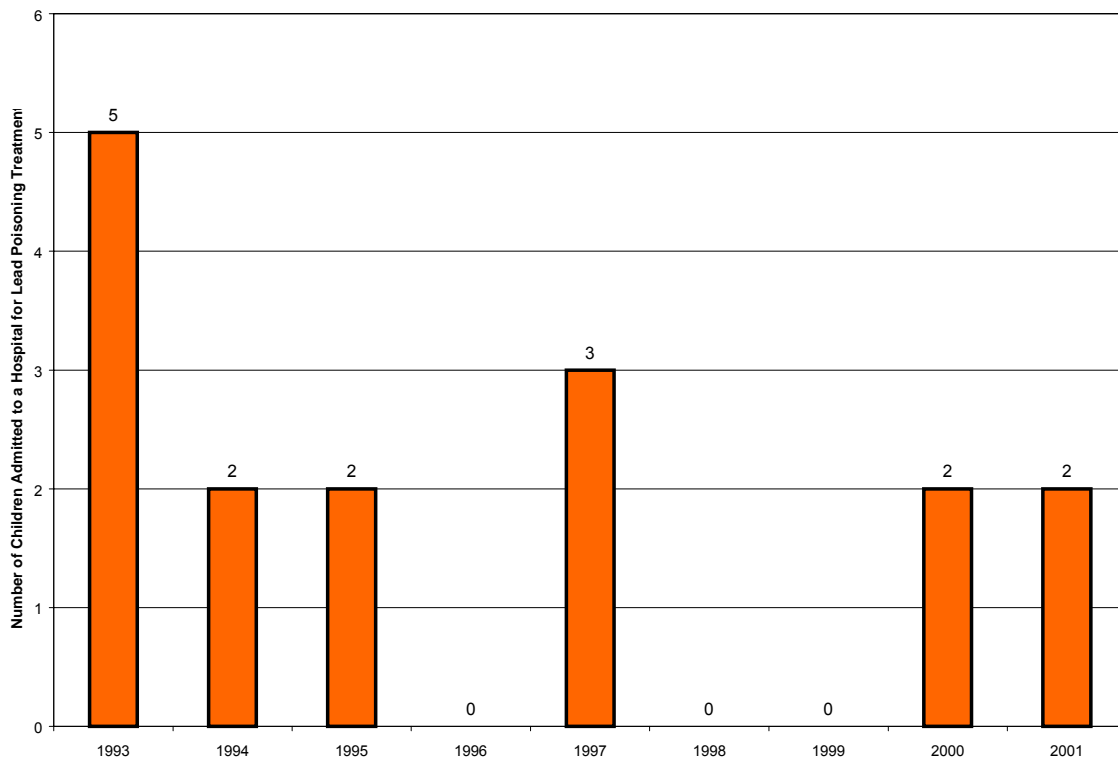


Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Hospitalizations for Children With Lead Poisoning

- Children with extremely high levels of lead in their blood (usually $>45\mu\text{g/dL}$) require immediate medical treatment.
- Hospitalizations for lead poisoning have been becoming increasingly rare statewide in the last seven years, but there is no trend in Pawtucket.
- There were 2 children from Pawtucket hospitalized last year, and 2 have been hospitalized as of August of this year.

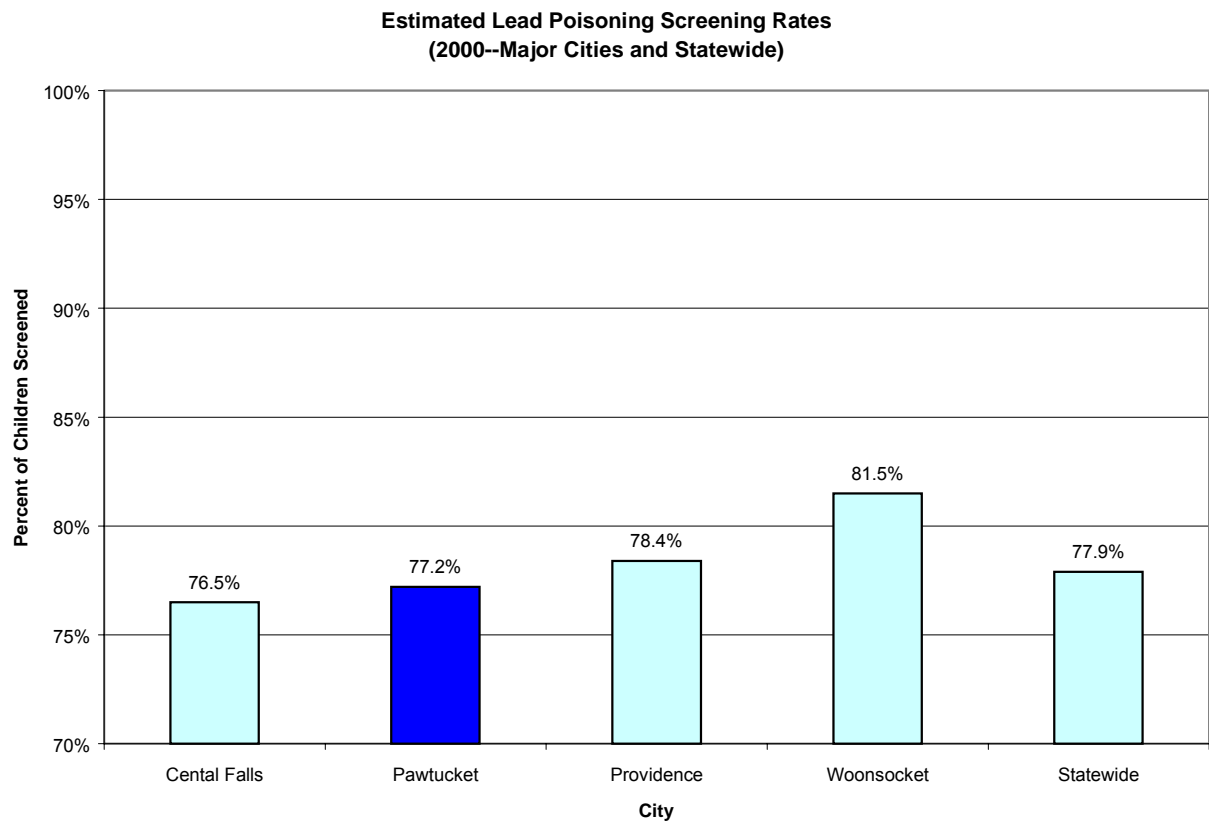
Number of Hospitalizations for Lead Poisoning
(1993 to August 2001 -- Pawtucket)



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

How Many Pawtucket Children Are Screened For Lead

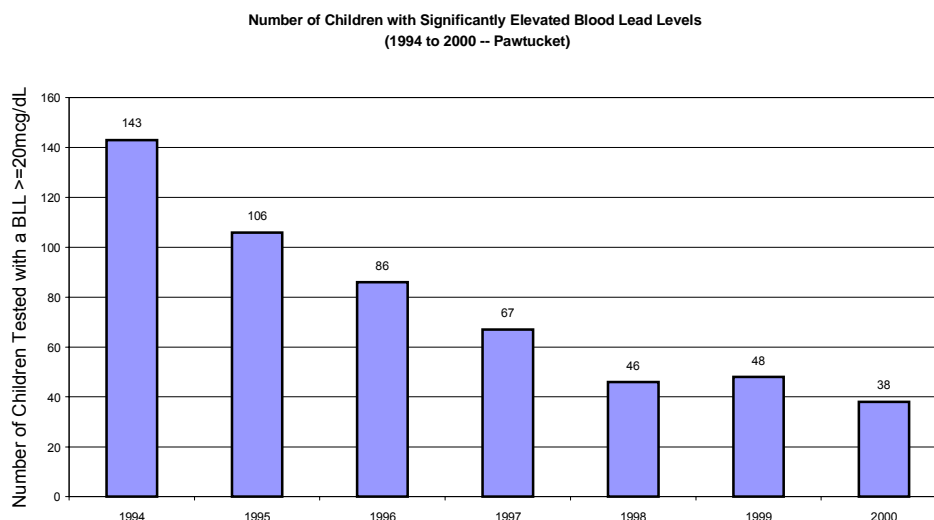
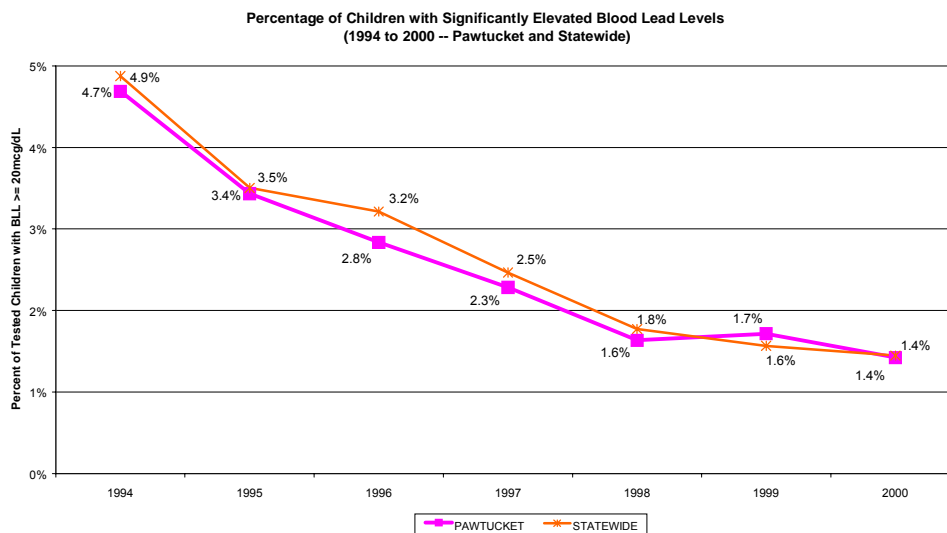
- Since lead poisoning rarely has immediate symptoms, the only way to know if a child has been lead poisoned is by a blood test.
- State regulations require that doctors annually screen all children under the age of six starting at 9 months. However, doctor practices vary in this regard.
- Proof of screening is required for entry to preschool or kindergarten.
- Yet, not all children receive the required screenings.
- Screening rates vary more among cities and towns (62.5% to 88.5%) than by race or ethnicity.



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Pawtucket Children With Significantly Elevated Blood Lead Levels

- By state regulation, children with a blood lead level of 20 μ g/dL or higher are considered to have significantly elevated levels, and are eligible for special state services.
- Pawtucket has generally had rates of children with elevated blood lead levels lower than that of the state average, although not substantially so.
- The decline from 4.7% in 1994 to 1.4% last year mirrored the state's drop from 4.9% to 1.5% in the same time period. It's important to remember, however, that this is still a large percentage by suburban and national standards.



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Note: The definition of significantly elevated changed in July 2001 – see “How to Interpret Lead Data” for more information

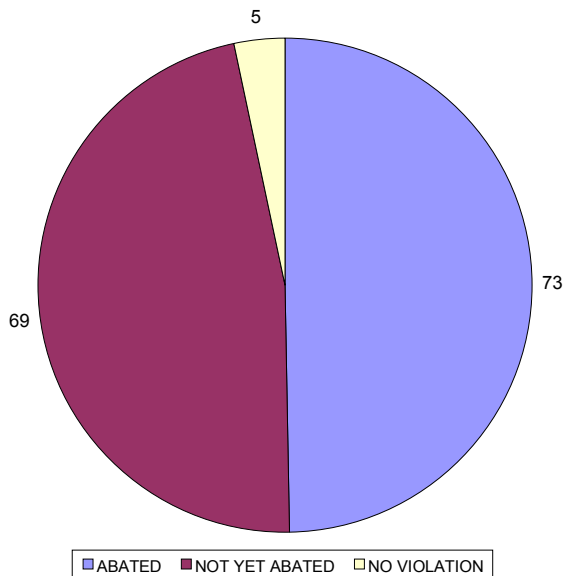
Pawtucket Lead Inspections Overview

- Since 1995, nearly 150 homes in Pawtucket were inspected by the state as a result of a significantly poisoned child residing there.
- A significant lead hazard was identified in all but 5 homes. In the other homes, the homeowner was issued a notice to abate the hazards and bring the dwelling into compliance with state regulation.
- Half of these properties have been made safer for the poisoned child and for the children who may reside there in the future.
- Continuing refusal by the property owner to comply with the regulations will result in court action to force compliance. There are currently 20 cases in Pawtucket still in the hands of the Attorney General's office or the Pawtucket Municipal Housing Court.
- An additional 21 cases are still considered "open" by HEALTH meaning the owner is still under the notice to abate, is actively working towards compliance, or has abated only the interior or exterior with the other in progress.

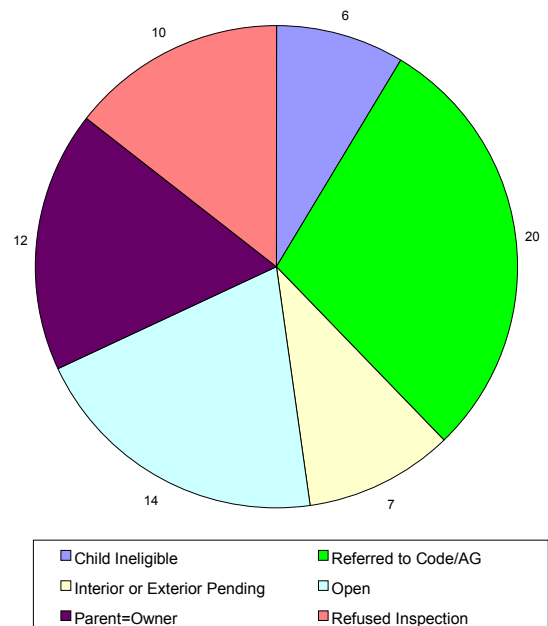
HEALTH will not pursue legal action to force abatement in certain cases:

- 12 cases were closed in Pawtucket because the child's parents were the owners of the property and directed to the child's health care provider for medical follow-up. While formal action was not taken, these parents were offered technical assistance in making their homes lead safe, and many of these cases achieve a significant improvement in lead safety.
- 10 families refused to allow the inspector in and these cases had to be closed.
- In 6 cases, the child moved away, the family could not be located, the child's blood lead level dropped to below the intervention level, or the child became older than regulations allow and thus the case was closed.

Outcomes of Environmental Investigations for Significantly Elevated BLLs
(1994 to September 2001 -- Pawtucket)



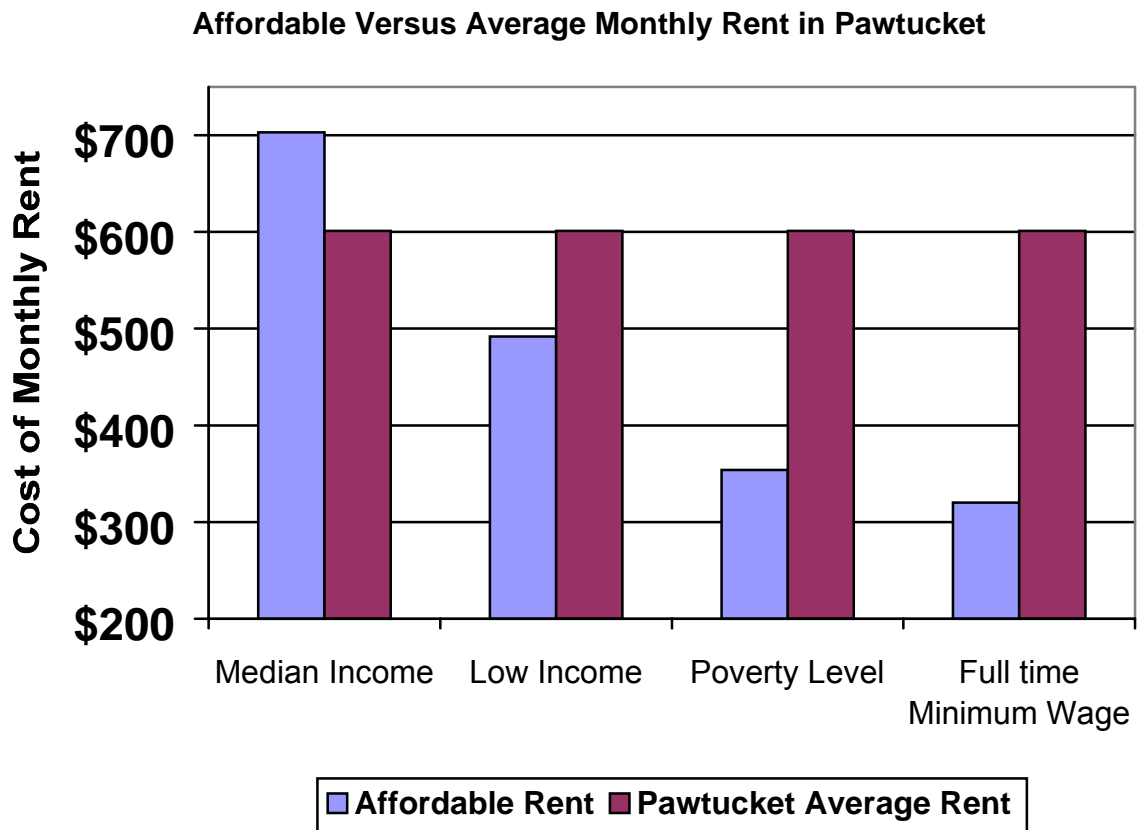
Reasons Why Cases Are Not Yet Abated
(1994 to September 2001 -- Pawtucket)



Source of data: Rhode Island Department of Health

Pawtucket Housing Information

- According to the 2000 census, there were 31,819 housing units in the city of Pawtucket and 964 (3%) were vacant and for rent.
- However, according to case managers who work with Pawtucket families to locate new apartments, the housing situation has never been worse.
- Families have a nearly impossible time locating a safe and affordable apartment.
- According to HUD guidelines, low income or poverty-level families are able to afford \$492 and \$354 a month respectively. To be able to afford the average Pawtucket rent, a family would need to make over \$24,000 a year.



Source of data: Rhode Island Housing rent surveys, December 2000 and January 2001